



SUB-COMMITTEE ON
RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH
AND RESCUE
4th session
Agenda item 8

COMSAR 4/INF.5
13 April 1999
ENGLISH ONLY

**MATTERS CONCERNING SEARCH AND RESCUE INCLUDING
THOSE RELATED TO THE 1979 SAR CONFERENCE
AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GMDSS**

**Indian Ocean Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR)
and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)**

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document contains resolutions 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 adopted by the above Conference.

Action to be taken: Submitted for information only.

Related documents: COMSAR 4/8/9.

Given at annex are resolutions 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 adopted by the Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue and the GMDSS, as reported in document COMSAR 4/8/9.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

ANNEX**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE****Resolution No.1****ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) PLAN
FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON MARITIME SAR, 1979**

The 1998 Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

RECALLING the objectives of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, to develop and promote search and rescue activities by establishing an international search and rescue plan responsive to the needs of maritime traffic for the rescue of persons in distress at sea and to promote co-operation between search and rescue organizations,

RECOGNIZING that aeronautical search and rescue services have been established by Contracting States to the Convention on International Civil Aviation,

BEARING IN MIND that paragraph 2.1.4 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, requires each search and rescue region to be established by agreement among the Parties concerned,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that paragraph 2.1.5 of the Annex to the said Convention provides that, in case agreement on the exact dimensions of a search and rescue region is not reached by the Parties concerned, those Parties shall use their best endeavours to reach agreement upon appropriate arrangements under which the equivalent overall co-ordination of search and rescue services is provided in the region concerned,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT Article II of the said Convention and paragraph 2.1.7 of the Annex thereto, which provides that the delimitation of search and rescue regions is not related to, and shall not prejudice, the delimitation of any boundary between States,

HAVING CONSIDERED the provisional maritime search and rescue plan prepared by the Conference which aims at:

- integrating into one the provisional SAR plans that have already been agreed for maritime SAR areas into which the Indian Ocean has been divided, thus maximizing co-ordination in, and cost efficiency of, SAR operations; and
- providing coverage for areas in the Indian Ocean identified as lacking the necessary arrangements for SAR purposes,

1. ADOPTS the Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan for the Indian Ocean region annexed hereto;

2. INVITES all coastal States in the Indian Ocean region:
 - (a) to consider ratification of, or accession to, the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, at the earliest possible time if they are not yet parties to that Convention; and
 - (b) to forward to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization any additional information and amendments to augment the said Plan and to keep the information contained therein up-to-date; and
3. INVITES the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization to bring this resolution to the attention of all coastal States in the Indian Ocean inviting, in particular those which did not attend the Conference, to either approve and accept the delimitations recommended by the Conference for SAR purposes or to seek bilateral agreement on any desired changes with neighbouring States and to submit any amendments thus agreed to the Secretary-General.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 1

PROVISIONAL MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION

INTRODUCTION

The Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan for the Indian Ocean region has been prepared on the basis of Article II and paragraph 2.1.7 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 by the Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue and the GMDSS, in September 1998 and is subject to adoption by the States concerned.

The Plan, once finalized, will consist of:

- .1 a list of definitions and abbreviations of terms used;
- .2 a table of search and rescue facilities available, including:
 - .2.1 the National Search and Rescue Agency for each State, Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres and Rescue Sub-Centres with the names of their operating agencies;
 - .2.2 details of available landline communications and ship earth stations established at Rescue Co-ordination Centres;
 - .2.3 Associated Coast Radio Stations (CRS);
 - .2.4 Associated Inmarsat Coast Earth Stations (CES);
 - .2.5 Associated COSPAS/SARSAT Mission Control Centres (MCCs);
 - .2.6 Associated Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centres (ARCCs);
 - .2.7 Rescue units available to the rescue centres;
 - .2.8 Other units and services available to the rescue centres; and
 - .2.9 additional information;
- .3 charts and details of provisional areas of responsibility for maritime search and rescue. These areas will not be considered final until the Secretary-General of IMO is notified of their acceptance by the States concerned in accordance with paragraphs 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

Note: The Conference was unable to reach agreement on the areas of responsibility for SAR purposes of countries in the region which did not attend and, without prejudice to the rights of those States, accepted the delineation of provisional areas of responsibility. The Conference invited the countries concerned to either approve and accept the limits recommended by the Conference or to seek bilateral agreement on any desired changes with neighbouring States and to submit any amendments agreed to the Secretary-General of IMO.

The search and rescue facilities listed in this Annex are those on which information was provided and do not represent those that are recommended or required.

1 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1.1 The following definitions and abbreviations are used taking into account those contained in the IAMSAR Manual.

1.1.1 Definitions

Search and rescue region (SRR). An area of defined dimensions, associated with a rescue co-ordination centre, within which search and rescue services are provided.

Rescue co-ordination centre (RCC). A unit responsible for promoting efficient organization of search and rescue services and for co-ordinating the conduct of search and rescue operations within a search and rescue region.

Rescue sub-centre (RSC). A unit subordinate to a rescue co-ordinated centre established to complement the latter according to particular provisions of the responsible authorities.

Maritime rescue co-ordination centre (MRCC). An RCC responsible for maritime search and rescue incidents.

Maritime rescue sub-centre (MRSC). An RSC responsible for maritime search and rescue incidents.

Aeronautical rescue co-ordination centre (ARCC). An RCC responsible for aeronautical search and rescue incidents.

Aeronautical rescue sub-centre (ARSC). An RSC responsible for aeronautical search and rescue incidents.

Extra long-range aircraft (ELR). Aircraft with a radius of action of 1500 n.m. (2780 km) or more plus 2.5 hours search time remaining.

Mission Control Centre (MCC). Part of the COSPAS-SARSAT system that accepts alert messages from local user terminal(s) and other mission control centres to distribute to the appropriate rescue co-ordination centres or other search and rescue points of contact.

Very long-range aircraft (VLR). Aircraft with a radius of action of more than 1,000 n.m. (1850 km) plus 2.5 hours search time remaining.

Long-range aircraft (LRG). Aircraft with a radius of action of 750 n.m. (1390 km) plus 2.5 hours search time remaining.

Medium-range aircraft (MRG). Aircraft with a radius of action of 400 n.m. (740 km) plus 2.5 hours search time remaining.

Short-range aircraft (SRG). Aircraft with a radius of action of 150 n.m. (280 km) plus half hour search time remaining.

Heavy helicopter (HEL-H). Helicopter with a radius of action for rescue purposes of more than 200 n.m. (370 km) and capacity for evacuating more than 15 persons.

Medium helicopter (HEL-M). Helicopter with a radius of action for rescue purposes of 100 - 200 n.m. (185 to 370 km) and capacity for evacuating 6 to 15 persons.

Light helicopter (HEL-L). Helicopter with a radius of action for search and rescue purposes of up to 100 n.m. (185 km) and capacity for evacuating 1 to 5 persons.

Rescue vessel (RV*). Long range seagoing craft.

Rescue boat (RB*). Short range coastal/river craft.

Coast earth station (CES). Maritime name for an Inmarsat shore-based station linking ship earth stations with terrestrial communications networks.

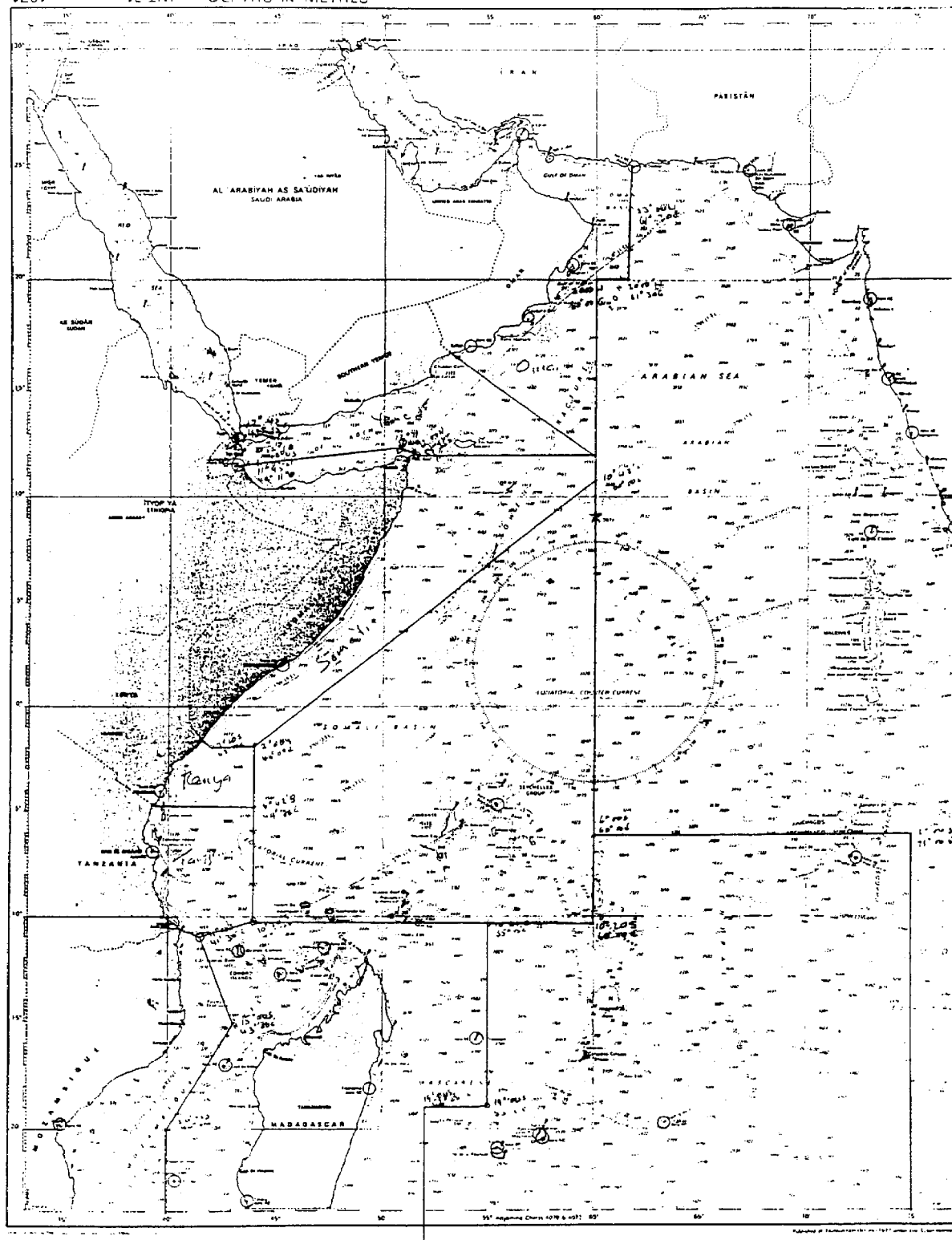
1.1.2 Abbreviations

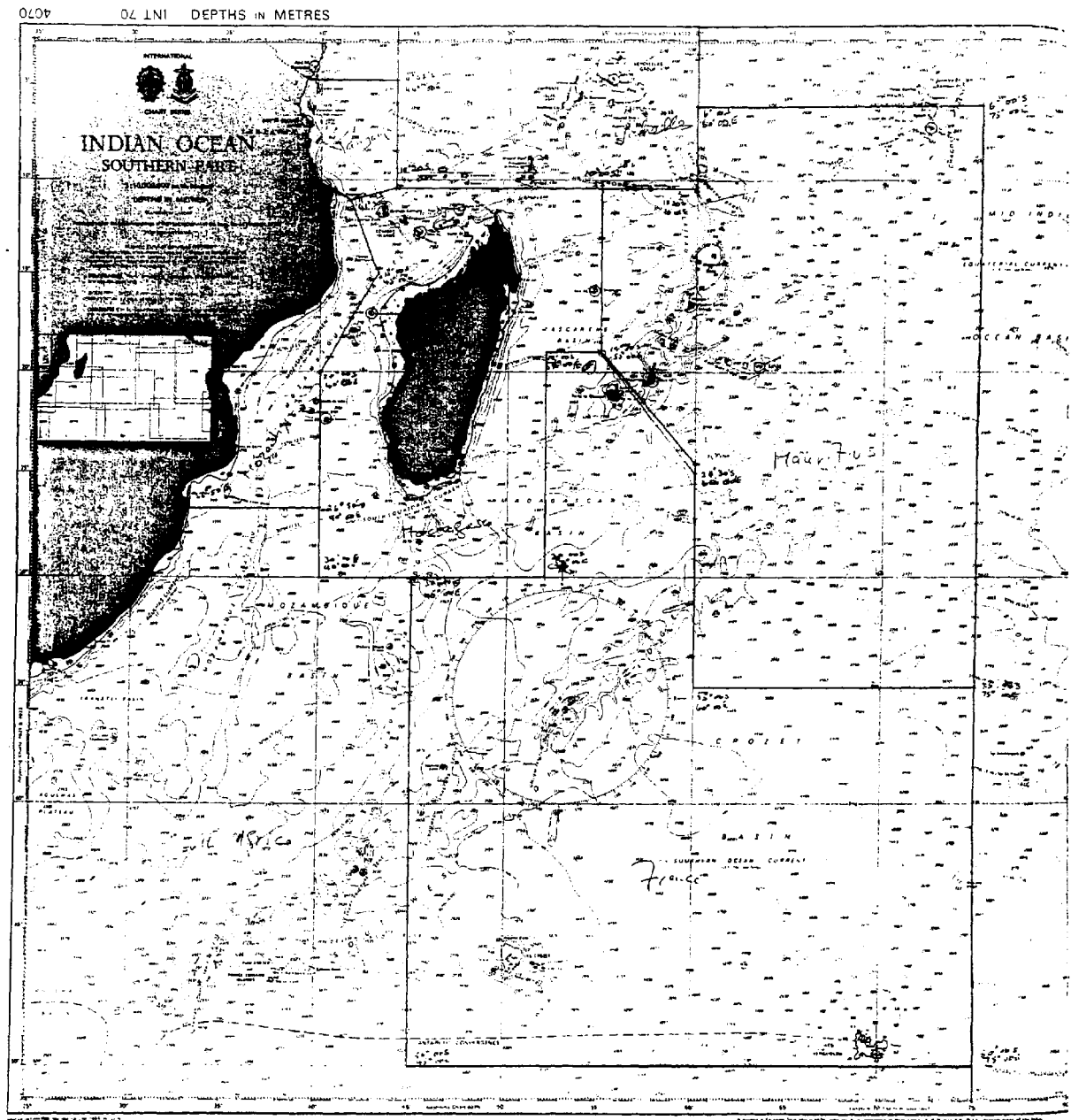
A/B	Answer back
AMVER	Automated Mutual-assistance Vessel Rescue **
ARCC	Aeronautical rescue co-ordination centre
CES	Coast earth station
COSPAS-SARSAT	International satellite system for search and rescue
CRS	Coast radio station
ELR	Extra long range aircraft
FIR	Flight information region
HEL-H	Helicopter, heavy
HEL-M	Helicopter, medium
HEL-L	Helicopter, light
HQ	Headquarters
IAMSAR	International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual
IMO	International Maritime Organization
Inmarsat	International Mobile Satellite Organization
LRG	Long range aircraft
MCC	Mission control centre
MRCC	Maritime rescue co-ordination centre
MRG	Medium range aircraft
MRSC	Maritime rescue sub-centre
m	Metres
NM	Nautical miles
PB	Patrol boat
RCC	Rescue co-ordination centre
RSC	Rescue sub-centre
RB	Rescue boat
RV	Rescue vessel

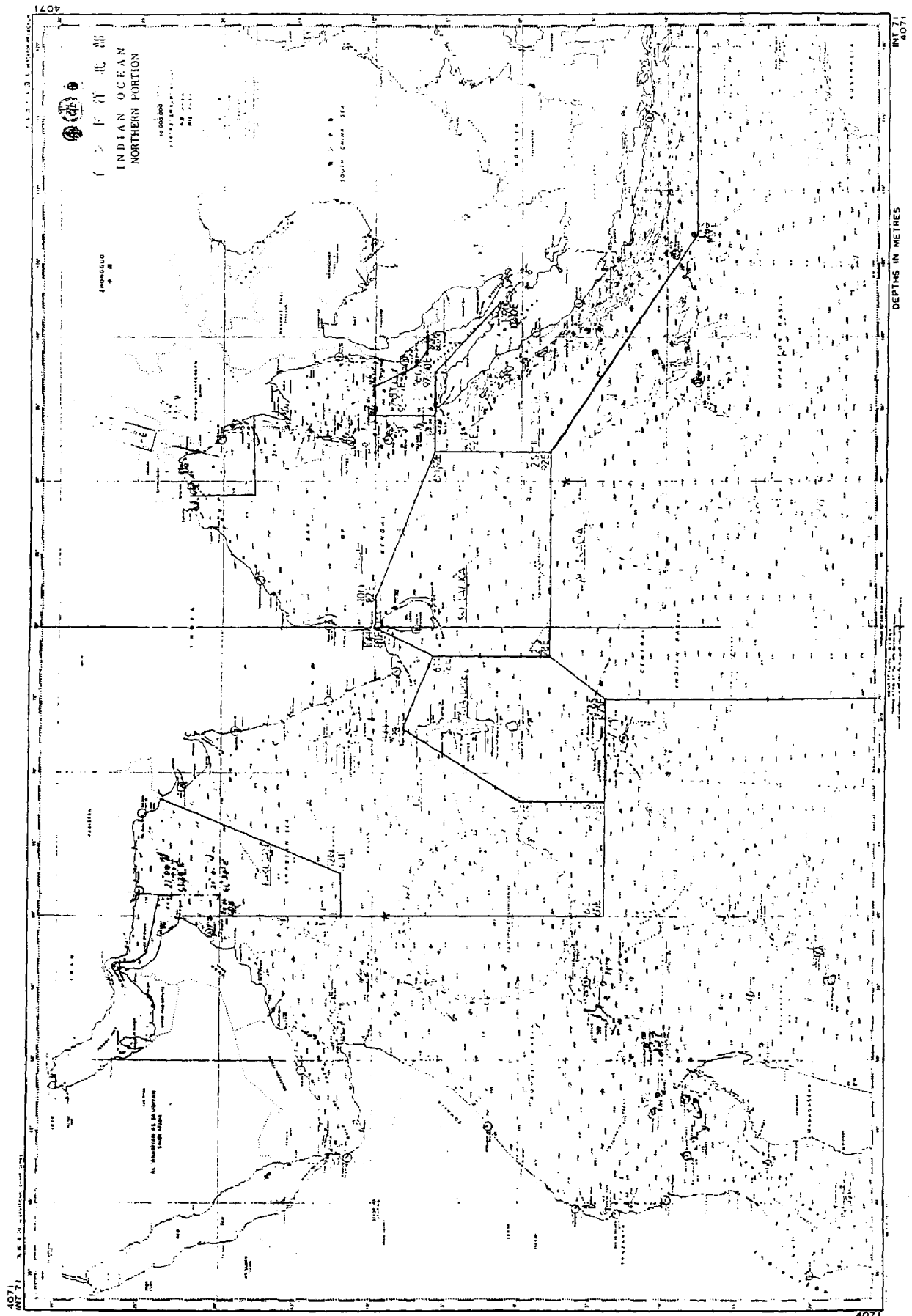
* Speed should be inserted, e.g. "RV(10)".

** When indicated, it means that ship position information is available from the system.

SAR	Search and rescue
SES	Ship earth station
SRG	Short range aircraft
SRR	Search and rescue region
SSB	Single-side band
UHF	Ultra high frequency
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VHF	Very high frequency
VLR	Very long range aircraft
MSRR	Maritime search and rescue region







Resolution No.2

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION AND CO-ORDINATION
OF SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) SERVICES
AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATES**

The 1998 Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

RECALLING paragraph 3.1.1 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which provides that Parties shall co-ordinate their search and rescue organizations and should, whenever necessary, co-ordinate search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States,

RECALLING ALSO paragraph 3.1.5 of the Annex to the said Convention, which recommends that Parties should enter into agreements with neighbouring States setting forth the conditions for the entry of each other's rescue units into or over their respective territorial sea or territory,

RECALLING FURTHER that paragraph 3.1.8 of the Annex to the said Convention recommends Parties to enter into search and rescue agreements with neighbouring States regarding the pooling of facilities, establishment of common procedures, conduct of joint training and exercises, regular checks of inter-State communication channels, liaison visits by rescue co-ordination centre personnel and the exchange of search and rescue information,

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to establish bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements for the provision and co-ordination of search and rescue services and co-operation between States,

1. URGES coastal States in the Indian Ocean region:
 - (a) to establish bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, so as to facilitate and expedite the efficient conduct of search and rescue operations in the region; and
 - (b) to communicate to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization the text of such agreements or arrangements for circulation to all Member States of the Organization and Parties to the 1979 SAR Convention;
2. INVITES the attention of those States considering establishing such agreements or arrangements to the format of the example agreement set out in the Annex to the present resolution.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 2

EXAMPLE OF AN AGREEMENT ON CO-OPERATION REGARDING MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES BETWEEN NEIGHBOURING STATES

Note: Due to different circumstances among States, this example agreement may be varied to meet specific situations, as necessary.

1 **Application**

This Agreement applies to the co-operation between Maritime Administration "A" and Maritime Administration "B" in respect of maritime search and rescue services within the sea area

2 **Jurisdiction**

Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the present or future claims and legal views of either Party to this Agreement concerning the law of the sea and the nature and extent of coastal and flag State jurisdiction.

3 **Alerting**

Requests for the assistance or participation of the search and rescue organization of the other Party shall be made by Party "A" through Rescue Co-ordination Centre "X" (RCC "X") to Rescue Co-ordination Centre "Y" (RCC "Y") and by Party "B" through Rescue Co-ordination Centre "Y" (RCC "Y") to Rescue Co-ordination Centre "X" (RCC "X").

4 **Co-ordination**

Search and rescue operations within the rescue area of Maritime Administration "A" shall be co-ordinated by the appropriate Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) of Maritime Administration "A" and search and rescue operations within the rescue area of Maritime Administration "B" by the appropriate Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) of Maritime Administration "B", if not otherwise agreed at the time of the distress incident.

Should the situation so require, the rescue co-ordination centres may agree on other forms of co-operation or distribution of the responsibility and work. The borderline between the rescue areas of the two Parties shall in no respect be an obstacle to joint co-operation between the two Parties in rescue operations.

Whenever an RCC receives a distress alert from a position outside its own SRR, the RCC shall be responsible for co-ordinating the search and rescue response until another RCC in a better position to respond assumes co-ordination responsibility.

5 **Admission**

Each Party to this Agreement shall make effective preparations to ensure that units of the maritime or aeronautical rescue organization of the other Party are admitted to its territory for the purpose of giving practical effect to this Agreement. A request for admission under the provisions of this Agreement shall be made to the Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) of the respective Party as prescribed in section 3 of this Agreement.

6 Exchange of information

Both Parties shall exchange information on the location of rescue units and equipment, performance characteristics and availability, and shall also exchange operation plans and lists of actions to be taken to deal with different kinds of distress incidents.

7 Exercises

The Parties shall alternately arrange a maritime search and rescue exercise [each year] based on simulated incidents so as to train the search and rescue organizations of the Parties in working together and with the aeronautical rescue organizations if separate.

8 Meetings of representatives

Representatives of the authorities responsible for the maritime search and rescue organizations of the Parties shall meet as necessary and at least [once a year] to develop co-operation and the exchange of information and experience.

The Parties shall hold regional conferences as necessary to maintain efficient operational co-ordination of SAR services in the region.

9 Language

During joint search and rescue operations, exercises and meetings the language primarily used shall be

10 Operating costs

Each Party undertakes to pay its own costs arising from the implementation of this Agreement.

11 Entry into force and denunciation

This Agreement shall enter into force when signed by representatives of the responsible authorities of the Parties and shall remain in force until three months following its denunciation by either of the Parties.

12 Amendments

This Agreement may be amended on the proposal of either Party and any such amendment shall enter into force one month following the date of its acceptance by both Parties.

13 Text

This Agreement is established in a single copy in the and languages, [both] [all] texts being equally authoritative.

Resolution No.4

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) AND THE GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

The 1998 Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

HAVING ADOPTED the Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan for the Indian Ocean region set out in the Annex to Resolution 1,

RECOGNIZING that the provision of prompt and effective maritime SAR and GMDSS services requires broad international co-operation, appropriate technical resources and well trained personnel,

RECALLING Resolution 8 concerning the promotion of technical co-operation adopted by the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979,

RECALLING ALSO Resolution A.873(20) on Technical Co-operation as a means of promoting the acceptance and implementation of IMO instruments,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that some coastal States of the Indian Ocean region do not yet possess all necessary search and rescue and GMDSS facilities and are in urgent need of appropriate training for their search and rescue personnel,

NOTING the need for RCC personnel to be able to communicate in the English language,

CONVINCED that the promotion of technical assistance will strengthen the implementation of the Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan in the Indian Ocean region,

1. INVITES Member Governments of IMO to make available their national maritime SAR training facilities for the training of search and rescue and GMDSS personnel of States in the region and to sponsor fellowships for such training in consultation with the Organization;
2. INVITES the Secretary-General of IMO:
 - (a) to bring this resolution to the attention of the Technical Co-operation Committee with a view to encouraging IMO Member Governments to assign a high priority to the provision of technical assistance and financial support for States which are in need of maritime SAR and GMDSS equipment, facilities and/or training; and
 - (b) to bring this resolution to the attention of all IMO Member Governments;
3. INVITES the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO to consider developing a model training course on SAR English.

Resolution No.6

COMPLETION OF THE PROVISIONAL GLOBAL MARITIME SAR PLAN

The 1998 Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

HAVING ADOPTED the Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan for the Indian Ocean region set out in the annex to Resolution 1,

BEING INFORMED that, with the adoption of the said Provisional SAR Plan, arrangements for the provision and co-ordination of search and rescue services are now complete in all the thirteen maritime SAR areas into which the oceans of the world have been divided,

NOTING that the success in completing the Provisional Global SAR Plan was achieved thanks to:

- the generous financial assistance provided by IMO Member Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in response to resolution 8 of the 1979 SAR Conference,
- the high quality of lectures delivered during all the IMO seminars, workshops and conferences convened, which greatly assisted the participants thereto to improve their knowledge and understanding of their (and their countries') obligations under the SAR Convention,
- the invaluable contribution made by the officers elected and other staff designated to serve the various seminars, workshops and conferences,

1. WELCOMES most warmly this significant development in IMO's and the world maritime community's efforts to enhance safety at sea;

2. CONSIDERS this development a most appropriate and fitting achievement significantly attained during the Year of the Ocean;

3. EXPRESSES deep appreciation to the Governments, intergovernmental organizations and international organizations which either financially supported or hosted the meetings leading to the completion of the said Plan;

4. EXTENDS its sincere thanks to lecturers, officers and staff which served all these meetings;

5. CONGRATULATES IMO and its Secretary-General for their tireless efforts to bring the Plan to completion;

6 REQUESTS the IMO Secretariat to bring this resolution to the attention of the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO, inviting it to invite the IMO Member Governments to:

- (a) notify the Secretary-General when agreements have been concluded among themselves so that the Provisional Plan becomes final and, more importantly,
- (b) put in place an efficient and adequate SAR infrastructure and implement the provisions of the plan, when called to conduct SAR operations, in the most efficient and effective manner.

Resolution No.7

EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION

The 1998 Fremantle Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS),

- NOTING:** - the generous provision of financial support by the Governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States, the International Mobile Satellite Organization and the International Transport Workers' Federation,
- the excellent organizational arrangements for the Conference made by the host State and the International Maritime Organization; and
 - the high quality of the lectures delivered during the Conference and the invaluable contribution to its success made by the officers elected to serve the Conference,

1. **EXPRESSES** deep appreciation to the Government and people of Australia for the welcome extended and kindness shown to all participants and for their generous hospitality and overall contribution to the success of the Conference;

2. **EXPRESSES ALSO** deep appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States, the European Commission, the International Mobile Satellite Organization and the International Transport Workers' Federation, for financially supporting the Conference;

3. **CONVEYS** its most heartfelt thanks to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization for the highly successful Conference;

4. **EXTENDS** its sincere thanks to:

- the President, Vice Presidents and other officials of the Conference for their leadership and general support,
- the lecturers and Chairmen of the various sessions of the Conference for preparing and delivering excellent and very instructive lectures on their topics; and to their Governments and international organizations for making them available, and
- the rapporteurs and co-ordinator for their contribution to the success of the Conference;

5. **EXTENDS ALSO** its sincere thanks to the UNDP Resident Representatives in the Indian Ocean region for the assistance extended to participants;

6. **REQUESTS** the IMO Secretariat to convey these expressions of appreciation to all appropriate authorities and inform IMO's Maritime Safety Committee, ICAO, ITU, WMO, IHO, Inmarsat, COSPAS-SARSAT and other international organizations of the outcome of the Conference.